

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W
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R 281442Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: PRIVATE SECTOR REACTION TO HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION REPORT

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3197

BEGIN SUMMARY: VARIOUS PRIVATE SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS HAVE STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE THAT IMPLICATED ITS MEMBERS IN THE OLANCHO ATROCITIES. UNIFORMLY THEIR DECLARATIONS DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRESENT PUBLICLY THE DOCUMENTS THAT IMPLICATE MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL FURTHER LESSEN THE GOVERNMENT'S BASE OF SUPPORT IN HONDURAN SOCIETY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE HONDURAN COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (COHEP) REJECTED THE FINDINGS OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION THAT IMPLICATED THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE OLANCHO KILLINGS. CAMILO RIVERA GIRON, PRESIDENT OF COHEP, MADE A STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN THE PRESS ON JULY 25 AFTER THE DIRECTING BOARD OF COHEP HAD AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON JULY 24. RIVERA STATED THAT COHEP WAS

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CAREFULLY ANALYZING THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVES FOR INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND TERMED THE ACCUSATION A SERIOUS ERROR. HE SAID COHEP OFFERED ITS FULL SUPPORT TO FENAGH, THE ASSOCIATION OF CATTLEMEN AND

LANDOWNERS.

2. AGAO, THE ASSOCIATION OF LANDOWNERS AND CATTLEMEN OF OLANCHO, ISSUED A DECLARATION DENYING ANY COMPLICITY IN THE OLANCHO KILLINGS, IT CALLED ON THE COMMISSION TO PUBLISH ANY DOCUMENTS THAT IMPLICATED AGAO IN THE INCIDENTS. IT EMPHASIZED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARMED FORCES, MAJOR JOSE ENRIQUE CHINCHILLA, WAS IN COMMAND IN THE DEPARTMENT, NOT THE LANDOWNERS OR CATTLEMEN. IT CALLED ON ALL LANDOWNERS AND CATTLEMEN TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS.

3. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF CORTES (SAN PEDRO SULA) ISSUED A DECLARATION ON JULY 24 REJECTING THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE THAT ACCUSED MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF BEING INVOLVED IN CREATING CHAOS AND CONFRONTATION IN OLANCHO. THE DECLARATION DEMANDED THAT THE DOCUMENTS IMPLICATING MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR BE ISSUED PUBLICLY. IT EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN SEEKING TO HELP INSURE TRANQUILLITY AND PEACE. THE DECLARATION DEMANDED THAT OFFICIAL INFORMATION BE CLEAR AND PRECISE IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION.

4. THE COMMITTEE OF NATURAL RECONSTRUCTION (COREN), A JOINT LIBERAL-NATIONALIST PARTY ORGANIZATION, ALSO ISSUED A DECLARATION ON THE MATTER. IT PROTESTED THE ATTEMPT OF THE COMMISSION TO INVOLVE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN THE OLANCHO EVENTS. IT STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ADDED TO THE CLIMATE OF FEAR AND SUSPICION, THUS DEEPENING THE DIVISION OF CLASSES. IT CALLED UPON THE CHIEF OF STATE TO ESTABLISH CLEARLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GUILTY PARTIES AND AVOID CONFUSING PUBLIC OPINION.

5. COMMENT: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT SEEMS INCAPABLE OF AVOIDING ACTIONS THAT CAN ONLY MAKE THE PRESENT SITUATION EVEN WORSE. THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINDINGS IN THE OLANCHO MASSACRE NAMING MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED WAS A COURAGEOUS ACT AND ONE THAT WAS NECESSARY. HOWEVER, TO INCLUDE VAGUE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONCERNING COMPLICITY
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IN THE KILLINGS ONLY COMPLICATES AN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT SITUATION. HONDURAS IS PRESENTLY RIVEN WITH EVERY KIND OF DIVISION AND THIS KIND OF ACCUSATION WILL NOT BRING BACK THE CAMPESINO SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME AND WILL ONLY CAUSE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO VIEW THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ENEMY.
SANCHEZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMMUNIQUES, PRESS COMMENTS, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI03219
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750260-0023
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaaeej.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971022
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINS, HO, COHEP, PINT
To: STATE INFO GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
SAN JOSE
SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006